

REMARKS

Claims 11 through 18 and 20 through 27 are pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 16 through 18 and 20 through 27, and the Examiner's indication that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the only remaining issue pivots about the patentability of claims 11 through 13 and 15.

Claim 11 has been amended by incorporating limitations originally present in claim 1 and basically similar to those present in claim 21. Accordingly, the present Amendment does not generate any new matter or any new issue for that matter.

Telephonic Interview of October 24, 2006

Applicants express appreciation for Examiner Lee's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic Interview on October 24, 2006. During that interview the present Amendment was discussed. Examiner Lee agreed to allow claims 11 through 13 and 15 upon submission of the present Amendment.

For completeness Applicants address the rejections imposed in the May 4, 2006 Office Action.

Claims 11 through 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Hirano et al.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness predicated upon Hirano et al.

Claims 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness predicated upon Okuno et al.

Each of the above rejections is traversed.

Specifically, none of the applied references discloses or suggests a wavelength converter comprising an optical fiber having a dispersion slope who absolute value at a wavelength of 1550 nm is $0.01\text{ps}/\text{nm}^2/\text{km}$ or less, as acknowledged by the Examiner during the October 24, 2006 Office Action.

Based upon the foregoing Applicants submit that the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 are not factually or legally viable and, hence, solicit withdrawal thereof.

Applicants again acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's Allowance of claims 16 through 18 and 20 through 27, and the Examiner's indication that claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants also acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's telephonic acknowledgement that the present Amendment would overcome the imposed rejections and

place this Application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration is, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Arthur J. Steiner
Registration No. 26,106

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 AJS:ntb
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: October 30, 2006

**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**